BEDWELLTY

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BEDWELLTY 1894

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Annual Reports of the

Medical Officer of Health

&

Chief Public Health Inspector

Year ended 31st December, 1963.

BEDWELLTY



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The Annual Reports of the

Medical Officer of Health

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BEDWELLTY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1963 - 1964

Chairman - Councillor G. H. Thomas, J.P.

Vice-Chairman - Councillor J. D. Turner

MEMBERS

Councillor	Mrs. H. Baker	Councillor	W. Hardacre
"	I. J. Bowen	"	G. H. Hawker
"	R. R. Bryant	"	E. G. Hodges
"	P. G. Bullen, D.F.C.	"	K. Meade
"	E. J. Butler	"	R. J. Nash
"	W. D. G. Cole	"	W. E. Park, B.A.
"	J. Coleman	"	F. O. Sainsbury, J.P.
"	D. Davies	"	J. Salway
"	T. I. Davies	"	F. J. Walters, B.A.
"	B. Gibbs, J.P.	"	D. G. Werrett

Councillor S. J. Williams

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor D. Davies

Vice-Chairman - Councillor I. J. Bowen

Councillor	R. R. Bryant	Councillor	E. G. Hodges
"	W. D. G. Cole	"	K. Meade
"	J. Coleman	"	F. O. Sainsbury, J.P.
"	T. I. Davies	"	J. Salway
"	B. Gibbs, J.P.	"	G. H. Thomas, J.P.
"	W. Hardacre	"	J. D. Turner

Clerk to the Council - J. E. Rogers, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	Dr. Richard A. Hoey, M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	A. M. Coleman, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Public Health Inspector	E. J. Francis, M.A.P.H.I. (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Public Health and Shops Inspector	G. H. Gane, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Student Public Health Inspector	R. Mitchard
Rodent Operator	C. O. Shelton
Mortuary and Post Mortem Attendant (Part-time)	E. Jones
Shorthand Typist/Clerk	Miss C. A. Thomas

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1963

Area of District in Acres	7,353
Population (Census 1951)	28,826
(Census 1961)	27,336
Estimated Population for Birth & Death Rates 1963	27,410
Number of Inhabited Houses (31.12.63)	7,453
Number of Persons per House	3.6
Rateable Value as at 31st March, 1963	£212,927
Product of Penny Rate 1962/63	£816
Number of Births	510
Net Birth Rate	18.6
Number of Illegitimate Births	28
Number of Deaths of Residents	327
Net Death Rate	11.9
Number of Deaths under 1 year	17
Of these there were Illegitimate	2
Infantile Mortality, per 1,000 Births	33.3
Number of Women Dying from Childbirth	NIL
Number of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	1
Number of Deaths from all forms of Influenza	3
Number of Deaths from all forms of Bronchitis	37
Number of Deaths from all forms of Pneumonia	8
Number of Deaths from all forms of Measles	NIL
Number of Deaths from all forms of Circulatory Diseases	119
Number of Deaths from all forms of Cancer	54

BEDWELLTY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Aberbargoed,
Bargoed,
Glam.

12th July, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwellty Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

WHITHER THE M.O.H.

I recently had cause to study closely and report upon the Platt, the Porritt and Ghillie Reports which were concerned with staffing hospitals with experienced men other than consultants, the bringing together of the Public Health Service, the Hospital Service and the general practitioners and the means of utilising to the full the doctors available in the country. The Ghillie Report seems to have provided the last word - that general practitioners should form themselves into groups for group practice and each member of the group be a minor specialist in some subject like medicine, midwifery, paediatrics or even surgery and so be able to help staff the district hospitals and where, if the Local Health Authority encouraged it, do the ante-natal and infant welfare clinics and periodic or special school medical examinations.

When I was demobilised, in addition to doing my D.P.H. course, I served as a registrar in a fever hospital and then was in charge of children's, as well as adult's, wards. Therefore, when I started doing schools and infant welfare clinics, I felt I knew a great deal more about children's problems than the average general practitioners. One used to get the occasional case of Pink Disease of pyloric stenosis that the family doctor had missed and feel that one had made a useful contribution to medicine in the area. Now, those cases are becoming very unusual and one feels that the G.P.s up and down the country have been quietly discussing and studying paediatrics and in an anxiety to avoid outspoken criticism by a few foolish parents they are making great efforts to outstrip us, many cases which we would normally have seen and have referred to a consultant paediatrician are referred direct by the G.P. thus causing himself extra exertion but wasting or duplicating school and clinic time for those in my position.

On the other hand, for some years I have had medical charge of the Council's sickness scheme. This scheme seems to have been drawn up under the false impression that a doctor with a full waiting-room can thoroughly examine a workman who complains of a certain symptom or ailment and if the man's condition does not justify absence from his job, will reprimand him and send him scuttling back to work immediately. Well, in the first place, the doctor probably does not know whether the patient's money is going to be "made up" if he goes sick and assumes that the man is telling the truth and gives the certificate. A full examination without pathology takes about an hour and so to query two or three such cases would completely upset the doctor's timetable. If one doctor asks too many awkward questions, he will also lose the bread-winner and the members of his family from his list and also get a lot of abuse in the process.

As an industrial medical officer, there seems to me to be two kinds of workmen and workwomen. There are those who seek me out and, if they are already having treatment, tell me about their progress or, if they are in difficulties, ask me to help them and there are the other sort who take time off, but, for one reason or other, avoid me as long as they possibly can. Perhaps some of them are frightened of authoritative action but, as far as I am concerned, I look upon it as a clinical process now in it's infancy and I am pleased to see that considerable interest has recently been shown in making it a national scheme.

Under my agreement, I am entitled to six months' sick leave on full pay and six months on half pay. I think that if I took a year off on doctor's notes and then worked for a few days, I would have a job to embark on a second period. Therefore, the advocates of the argument that an employee is "entitled" to so many days a year is blatantly illogical. It seems a great pity that doctors in my position cannot prescribe drugs for these men and women and attend them in their homes. The study of the breakdown in health of middle-aged people seems to have been almost entirely neglected in this country.

There seems to be a popular misconception in some quarters that rich people live in a state of blissful idleness. This, in my experience, is far from true. They may enter into all sorts of activities - social, antisocial or otherwise - but, generally speaking, they spend their time about as vigorously as people who earn their living; some work far longer, harder hours in what they think to be a worthwhile pastime, however good or unworthy it may be judged by others. Poverty, idleness and ill-health seem to be inseparable partners in a person or family which has slipped below subsistence standard.

The Council, of course, are concerned about the cost to the ratepayers of the sick scheme and Bedwellty Council have made tremendous efforts to prevent the sick scheme pricing out jobs performed by direct labour and under-manning of jobs etc. However, whenever a workman goes sick, a roughly equal sum is being met by taxpayers and the Ministry of Pensions now employs a panel of Regional Medical Officers to go into cases where prolonged use has been made of the dole, national assistance and health insurance. Although they may be observing the same patients, there is no interchange of ideas or information. My own view is that if all these agencies got together, it would be possible to run a sick scheme on a level at least very little below the normal incomes of these people. Unfortunately, a number of the Council's employees have suffered from chronic disease which prevents them from participating in the sick scheme. A lot of such disease may have been caused by the lack of interest of the healthy subject in remaining healthy. Only the employer, whether State, local authority or private industrialist, can bring pressure to bear on those indulging in unhealthy occupations or practices to look after themselves with a view to retiring on a full pension. We are starting the new generation well now with the Infant Welfare Card stapled in the School Medical Record and any specialists' reports are also included. On leaving school, wealth is the object and health is too often neglected. If the G.P.s do manage to push us out of child care as well they may, there is an enormous virgin field awaiting our husbandry: the care of the middle-aged. Why some people have chronic bronchitis at the age of 35, in spite of a normal X-ray, is still an unsolved mystery and why some men, although crippled, never miss a day and others, physically healthy, as far as one can tell, get out of the work routine so very easily, is a future subject for research, apart from minor mental illness and psychosomatic disease. However, I know enough about medicine to predict confidently that these problems are no more insoluable than cholera or high maternal mortality if tackled by medical teamwork, patience and understanding.

Medicine is so vast a subject that no practitioner can learn and remain up-to-date with the whole of it. If public health medical officers are, in future, to be entirely cooped up in offices, members of the public will find out, all too late, what has been quietly slipping away under their noses.

NEW TOWN

Bedwellty, being situated in two valleys with a horse-shoe distribution of houses around the southern slopes of Bedwellty mountain, has been thought of as rather a freak in the past as not conforming to the old market town pattern. I have been reading in 'New Society' recently that the old centripetal town is a thing of the past. Unfortunately, a large part of the best level land is taken up with derelict railway lines. With the ever-increasing demand for land and houses, industry, shopping centres, pedestrian precincts etc., it is difficult to see what planning is coming to other than meeting little problems one at a time and creating new ones. Although our climate is wetter and colder than the national average, we have about one thick fog in three years and enjoy sunny days in winter when the Severn Estuary area is shrouded in fog. Both the Rhymney and Sirhowy Valleys could be greatly improved by a crash programme of tree planting and anybody who doubts the beauty of our countryside can take his car up the newly-tarmaced ridgeway. A lecture at the Summer School of Health Education by a graduate social scientist on the gift of imagery, visual and auditory, gives a clue to the number of angry disputes about town and country planning. It is hoped to standardise tests for imagery in the not-too-distant future. Apparently, the gift of imagery is unrelated to intelligence and the lecturer informed us that she had no gift for imagery at all.

RODENT OPERATOR

The battle against rodents is one of man's oldest. Although rats have helped to decimate communities with plague, the depredations on man's food supply has probably been the most serious struggle. Although we bait the sewers annually with Warfarin, other rats seem to move in and take their place. There is now some question of using fluoracetamide in sewers; and the techniques of rat-hunting I have seen in my boyhood would fill a brochure, or possibly a textbook by somebody familiar with all aspects of rodent control.

Surely the Rodent Operator should be put on an upgraded designation and not classed as a general labourer?

Yours faithfully,

R. A. HOEY

Medical Officer of Health.

B I R T H S 1 9 6 3

The births registered during the year:

	MALES	FEMALES
Legitimate	241	241
Illegitimate	18	10
	259	251

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the population...	18.6
Percentage of illegitimate to legitimate	5.8
Stillbirths	12
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	22.9
Total live and stillbirths	522

D E A T H S 1 9 6 3

No. of deaths during year	327
The death rate after correction of inward and outward transfers ...	11.9

Death rate for the previous years may be compared:

1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
11.34	11.16	11.85	10.15	10.83	10.5	11.7	11.1	11.9

INFANTILE MORTALITY

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR

Under 1 week	11
1 - 2 weeks	1
2 - 3 weeks	-
3 - 4 weeks	1
Total under 1 month	13
1 - 3 months	3
3 - 6 months	1
6 - 9 months	-
9 - 12 months	-
Total	4

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	33.33
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	31.12
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first 4 weeks)	25.4
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	21.56

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASE

NIL

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Per 1,000 births (live and still):

Bedwellty	NIL
Monmouth County	NIL

CAUSES OF DEATH 1963

CAUSE	MALES	FEMALES
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	1
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-
Measles	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-
Parasite Disease	-	-
Cancer (Stomach)	5	2
Cancer (Lung)	11	1
Cancer (Breast)	-	5
Cancer (Uterus)	-	1
Cancer (Other Sites)	15	10
Leukaemia	1	3
Diabetes	-	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	9	29
Coronary Disease - Angina	41	16
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	2
Other Heart Diseases	22	30
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	6
Influenza	3	-
Pneumonia	4	4
Bronchitis	31	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	12	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	10	16
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
Other Accidents	8	-
Suicide	3	-
Homicide and Operations of War	1	-
TOTALS	187	140

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR

CAUSE	under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	4 weeks to 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total
PNEUMONIA	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
CIRCULATORY DISEASE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
GASTRITIS, ENTERITIS AND DIARRHOEA	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
BRONCHITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
CONVULSIONS	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
VIOLENCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
ASPHYXIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
OTHER CAUSES	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
TOTAL	11	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	17

TUBERCULOSIS		
Occupational Incidence of Tuberculosis		
MALES		
Occupation	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Miner	1	-
Labourer	1	-
Electrical Welder (Unemployed)	1	-
Factory Worker	1	-
Pumpsman	1	-
General Practitioner	1	-
Unknown	3	-
FEMALES		
Copy Typist	1	-
Insurance Agent	1	-
Post Mistress	1	-
Under School Age	1	-

HOSPITAL AND SANATORIUM TREATMENT

OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS

Hospital	Pulmonary Cases		Non-Pulmonary Cases	
	Admitted	Discharged	Admitted	Discharged
South Wales Sanatorium, Talgarth	5	1	-	-
Gelligaer Hospital	7	6	-	-
Sully Hospital	6	4	-	-
TOTAL	18	11		

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR

CAUSE	under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	4 weeks to 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total
PNEUMONIA	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
CIRCULATORY DISEASE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
GASTRITIS, ENTERITIS AND DIARRHOEA	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
BRONCHITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
CONVULSIONS	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
VIOLENCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
ASPHYXIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
OTHER CAUSES	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
TOTAL	11	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	17

TUBERCULOSIS		
Occupational Incidence of Tuberculosis		
MALES		
Occupation	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Miner	1	-
Labourer	1	-
Electrical Welder (Unemployed)	1	-
Factory Worker	1	-
Pumpsman	1	-
General Practitioner	1	-
Unknown	3	-
FEMALES		
Copy Typist	1	-
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HOSPITAL AND SANATORIUM TREATMENT

OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS

Hospital	Pulmonary Cases		Non-Pulmonary Cases	
	Admitted	Discharged	Admitted	Discharged
South Wales Sanatorium, Talgarth	5	1	-	-
Gelligaer Hospital	7	6	-	-
Sully Hospital	6	4	-	-
TOTAL	18	11		

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary Cases	Non-Pulmonary Cases
January	2	-
February	-	-
March	-	-
April	-	-
May	1	-
June	2	-
July	3	-
August	1	-
September	1	-
October	1	-
November	-	-
December	2	-
TOTAL	13	0

COMPARISON OF NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS

Year	Formal Notifications	Deaths
1954	37	2
1955	38	3
1956	26	3
1957	26	1
1958	34	9
1959	14	10
1960	28	3
1961	12	2
1962	5	3
1963	13	1

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

The following Table shows the new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease during 1963.

Age Period in years	NEW CASES						DEATHS					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
0 - 5	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	4	1	5	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
65 and over	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	9	4	13	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-

DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

IN THE PAST 12 YEARS

	AGE GROUP		
	1 - 5 Yrs	6 - 15 Yrs	16 & over
1952	1	1	36
1953	3	4	25
1954	3	2	32
1955	-	4	34
1956	1	7	18
1957	2	4	20
1958	1	5	19
1959	3	1	10
1960	4	1	23
1961	2	1	8
1962	-	-	5
1963	2	-	11

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

REGISTRATION WARDS AND QUARTERS DURING 1963

Notifiable Disease	Totals	Phillipstown	New Tredegar	Abergargoed	Pengam	Cefn Fforest	Blackwood	Argoed	Markham	Hollybush	QUARTERS 1	2	3	4
Whooping Cough	6	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Erysipelas	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Dysentery	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	5	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Measles	171	29	23	65	17	10	11	2	12	2	-	16	31	124
TOTAL	185	29	23	68	17	10	18	2	16	2	1	16	37	131

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Aberbargoed,
Bargoed,
Glam.

(Telephone: Bargoed 2137)

12th July, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of the
BEDWELLTY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the work done in the Public Health Department during 1963.

.....

NOTICES SERVED

(a) Public Health Act 1936

(i) Informal notices in respect of repairs and nuisances (Sec. 92)	174
(ii) Abatement notices requiring repair of dwellings (Sec. 93) ...	106
(iii) Requiring cleansing of premises (Sec. 83)...	3
(iv) Requiring provision of sufficient W.C. accommodation (Sec. 44)	1
(v) Requiring adequate supply of water in pipes to dwelling houses (Sec. 138)	19

(b) Other Acts

(i) Ruinous houses (Public Health Act 1961, Sec. 27 (1))	1
(ii) Requiring rat-proofing of houses (Damage by Pests Act (Sec. 4))	1
(iii) Requiring adequate sanitary accommodation (Shops Act 1950) ...	1

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

	Houses Demolished	DISPLACED	
		Persons	Families
1. Houses unfit for human habitation	-	-	-
2. Houses included by reason of bad arrangement	-	-	-
3. Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957.	-	-	-
NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
4. As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957.	6	44	11
5. Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health.	-	-	-
6. Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under Local Acts	-	-	-
7. Unfit houses included in unfitness orders.	-	-	-

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

8. Under Sections 16(4), 17(1), and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957.	4	14	4
9. Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957.	-	-	-
10. Parts of building closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957.	2	16	3

(a) Repairs of privately owned houses:

(i) No. of houses repaired by owners as a result of informal notice 75

(ii) No. of houses repaired by owners as a result of formal abatement notices 58

The above figures show an increase of 27 notices on the number for 1962.

Included in (ii) above were nine cases which required Police Court action.

The types of repairs fall fairly equally into:

(a) roof repairs including gutters and downspouts;

(b) damp-proofing;

(c) repair of sanitary accommodation;

and (d) miscellaneous internal repairs to woodwork, plastering etc.

I feel that a mention should be made of the co-operation of the National Coal Board Estates Management Section who have complied with the requirements of the department in the repair of houses owned by them in the Rhymney Valley portion of the area.

(b) Survey

A survey has been commenced to categorise dwellings in the area. The survey will take some time to complete but it is hoped that by the end of 1964 figures should be available.

Dwellings are being grouped for the purposes of the department as follows:

Group

A Post-war; well equipped; well maintained.

B Pre-war; well equipped; well maintained.

C Good type; without or with amenities; but in reasonable state of repair.

D Requiring improvement and repair.

E Old cottage-type property which, by reason of age and lack of amenities, would soon be categorised into 'F'.

F Dwellings ear-marked for slum clearance action.

During the survey, an estimate is being made of the houses which are suitable for provision of standard amenities/discretionary grants.

Another purpose of the survey is to compile a categoric register of houses in order that prospective purchasers may have, on request, a report on the anticipated 'life' of any dwelling.

(c) Improvement of houses

Except for the block improvement schemes put in hand by the National Coal Board at Britannia, Pengam and Church Street, Aberbargoed (50 houses), once again the report is disappointing that more use of the standard/discretionary grant provisions is not being made by owners. In all but a few cases, owner/occupiers are taking advantage of the scheme and not other owners.

No. of applications received and dealt with during 1963:

(a) Standard Grants: 29

(b) Discretionary Grants: 25

Several applications were found, on inspection of premises, to be outside the scope of the Act.

No. completed during 1963:

(a) Standard amenities: 25 *(9)

(b) Discretionary improvements: 11 *(14)

*Figures for 1962.

(d) Unfit houses incapable of being repaired at a reasonable expense

12 such houses were represented in the above category during 1963.

The tempo of such action is geared to the availability of accommodation for displaced families. At the time of writing this report, a number of families are awaiting re-housing from dwellings subject to demolition orders.

A programme is in hand and representations are being made from time to time. It is felt that to deal with properties too early before the rehousing of tenants lends itself to the houses being reasonably maintained by owners in the interim period.

The following houses were subject to demolition or closing orders during 1963:

Top Mountain Lodge, New Tredegar;
28, 30 and 32 Upper Road, New Tredegar;
Plum Tree Cottage, Bedwellty Road, Aberbargoed;
1 and 2 Quarry Row, Aberbargoed;
Nydfa Bungalow, Nydfa Yard, Pengam;
2 and 3 Thomas Street, Fleur-de-lis;
17 Gellihaf Road, Fleur-de-lis;
Castle Inn, Cwm Road, Argoed;
2 Newport Road, Hollybush.

COUNCIL HOUSES

The Public Health Department is responsible for the following duties in respect of Council houses:

(a) Routine house-to-house inspection in the course of which items requiring urgent repair are noted and the Housing Manager duly informed.

(b) During the routine inspections, any deterioration of standard of cleanliness is noted and dealt with accordingly by service of notice or letter, with follow-up inspections.

(c) Frequent inspections of houses where slum clearance tenants of a low standard of cleanliness have been rehoused, with records of each inspection.

(d) Inspection of accommodation of all prospective Council tenants to ascertain suitability regarding standard of cleanliness, with a memorandum to the Housing Manager on each call.

(e) Inspection of Council houses when a transfer of tenancy takes place.

(f) Inspection of vacated Council houses and, if necessary, on very few occasions, disinfestation before re-occupancy.

Except for a small minority, the standard of cleanliness in Council houses is very satisfactory, but a lot of time is spent by the Department in inspecting houses occupied by a 'hard core' of tenants who do not respond to any type of treatment, persuasion or coercion and, after all avenues have been explored, including the assistance of Welfare Officers, N.S.P.C.C. Officers, etc., there seems little to be done but to give notice to the tenant to quit the house.

Approximately 800 visits and inspections were made in 1963 for the above purposes.

I am indebted to Mr. A. S. Daynes, Housing Manager, for the following information on applications for Council houses (June 1964).

Ward	Apartments List A	Tenants List B	Total
Aberbargoed	93	44	137
Argoed	29	22	51
Blackwood	68	46	114
Cefn Fforest	53	11	64
New Tredegar	37	48	85
Pengam	60	56	116
Totals	340	227	567

WATER SUPPLY

The shortage of water in the Sirhowy Valley portion of the area during the summer months is being remedied by a scheme now to hand.

The bacteriological and chemical qualities of the water are satisfactory and samples are taken frequently for examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, who give an appreciated prompt service.

No. of samples taken during the year	98
Rhymney Valley Supply	58
Sirhowy Valley Supply	40

A few samples showed coliform counts on some occasions and the respective Water Board was notified forthwith.

Due to corrosion of water pipes, some houses in the New Tredegar area did not have a sufficient supply of water. Notices were served on the owners of the houses and the work was duly carried out to give a sufficiency of supply.

REFUSE

Refuse collection and disposal is under the supervision of the Surveyor. Kerbside refuse bin collection is now operative in most of the area, collection being three times per week.

The rodent operator has paid particular attention to the risk of rat infestation at refuse tips.

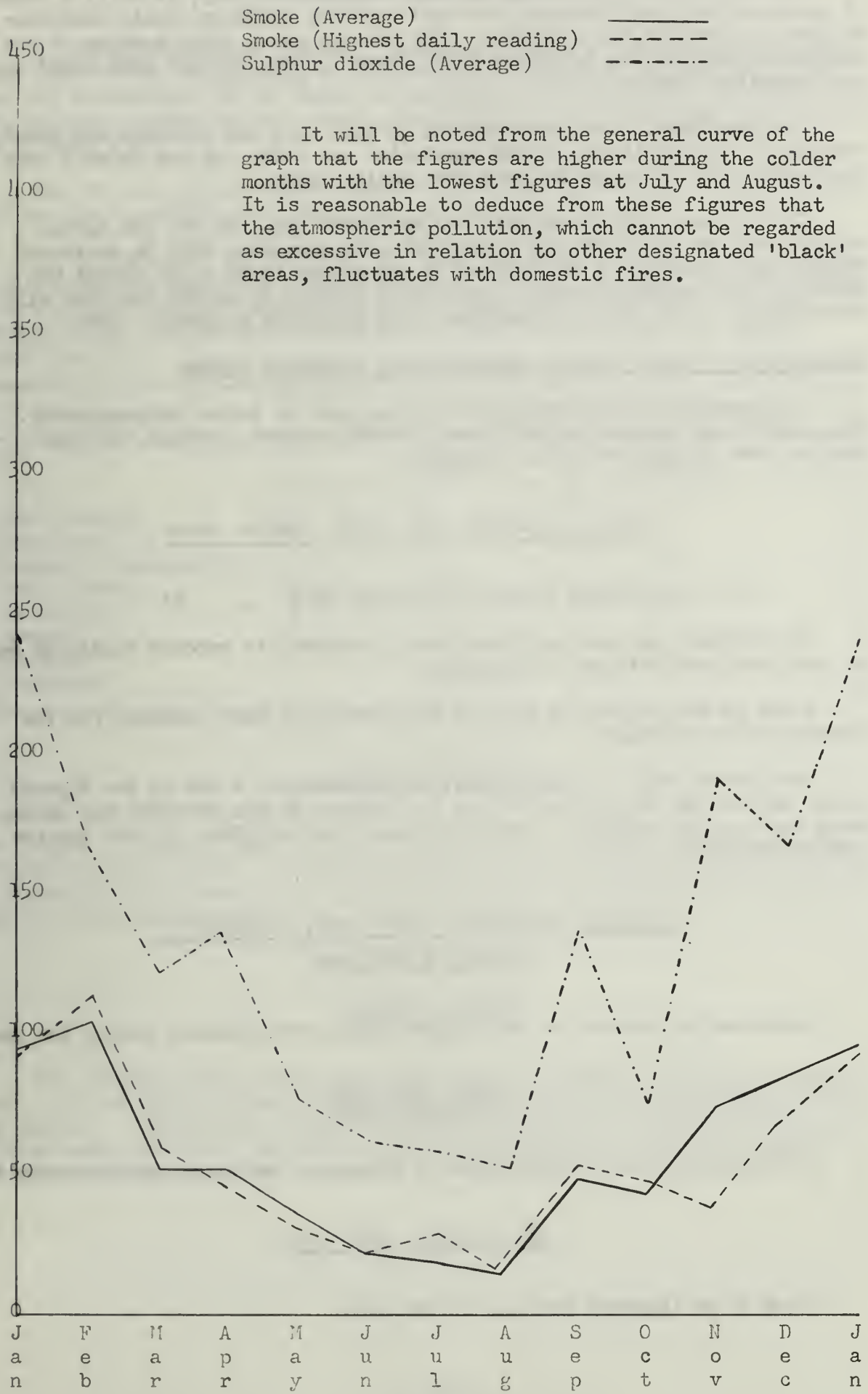
SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Except for a few cottages in the rural part of the area, the area is served by two trunk sewers with sea outfall.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Daily readings are taken of the smoke concentration and Sulphur Dioxide content of the atmosphere. The volumetric measurement machine is also used for the sampling of the air for radio-activity.

The smoke concentration and sulphur dioxide results are sent to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Stevenage, as part of the National Survey.



It will be noted from the general curve of the graph that the figures are higher during the colder months with the lowest figures at July and August. It is reasonable to deduce from these figures that the atmospheric pollution, which cannot be regarded as excessive in relation to other designated 'black' areas, fluctuates with domestic fires.

The electricity generating station, Bargoed Colliery, is still a source of nuisance and consultations were held with the District Alkali Inspector with a view to alleviate the position. The outcome was a joint meeting of the representatives of the Gelligaer U. D. Council, the National Coal Board and the Bedwellty Council.

The capacity of the power station is such that the premises are under the control of the Alkali Etc. Works Regulation Act 1906, but the Council have been represented when discussions have been taking place.

The National Coal Board have now confirmed that the two new Martin boilers will be installed and mechanical grit arresters will be provided, capable of reducing the dust burden in the escape gases to an amount not exceeding 0.15 grains per cubic foot also a chimney of height 128 feet will be provided. The work is scheduled to be completed by October 1965.

Monmouthshire County Council Radioactivity Detection Scheme

Air sampling has continued through the year to detect radioactivity. The samples are examined by Dr. James, Public Analyst, Newport, and the results were of very low level activity.

PUBLIC MORTUARY AND POST MORTEM ROOM

No. of autopsies carried out during 1963 ... 41

The mortuary was used on three other occasions to receive bodies of persons who had died under violent conditions.

A fee of two guineas is paid by the Coroner on each occasion for the cleaning of the mortuary.

The Council have a contract with two undertakers - one in the Rhymney Valley and one in the Sirhowy Valley - to remove to the mortuary any person found dead on the highway. The police have been notified of this service in case of emergency.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 50

Burial of the dead

There was no occasion on which this Section was operated during the year.

RENT ACT 1957

No application for a Certificate of Disrepair has been received since 1960.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

There is no licensed pet shop in the area.

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

All hairdressers' and barbers' premises have been inspected, attention being paid to the cleanliness of the premises, equipment and personnel and also the enforcement of the Shops Act relating to ventilation, lighting, heating, sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, hours of closing and half-day closing etc.

Many of the ladies' hairdressers employ young persons and attention is paid to their conditions of employment and hours worked etc.

All hairdressers and barbers and their premises are required to register with the Council and local byelaws based on the Model Byelaws of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have been adopted, and came into force on 1st January, 1963. There was no necessity to take action under the byelaws during the year.

WARD	REGISTERED PREMISES OF HAIRDRESSERS	
	LADIES	GENTLEMEN
New Tredegar	3	1
Aberbargoed	2	1
Pengam & Fleur-de-lis	2	2
Cefn Fforest	1	2
Blackwood	8	3
Argoed	-	-
Markham	-	1
Hollybush	1	-

SHOPS ACT 1950

Hours of closing, half day and Sunday trade provisions of this Act are enforced by the Council. Evening visits are made from time to time to check on general closing hours etc. although the practical difficulty in enforcing this Act has been reported.

RODENT CONTROL

The following table shows infestation and treatments carried out during 1963. In addition to these treatments, all the sewers are rat-baited every six months. Manholes are treated at sewer junctions. This work takes approximately six weeks on each occasion and a casual labourer is engaged to assist the rodent operator.

		(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council houses)	(3) All Other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3)	(5) Agriculture
1.	Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification	20	235	33	288	4
	Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
	common rat major	-	-	-	-	-
	common rat minor	17	205	30	252	4
	house mouse major	-	-	-	-	-
	house mouse minor	1	19	2	22	-
2.	Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	36	250	123	409	36
	Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
	common rat major	-	-	-	-	-
	common rat minor	3	77	29	109	6
3.	Number of infested properties	21	301	61	383	10
4.	Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
	(a) Treatment	-	-	1	1	-
	(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	-	-	-	-	-

CINEMAS AND OTHER PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT

Cinemas and Miners' Welfare Institutes were inspected for suitability and adequacy of sanitary accommodation. Letters were sent to the management in five cases, drawing their attention to defects of repair or decoration of the sanitary accommodation. This was due, in many cases, to the facilities being mis-used by the public.

FOOD SUPERVISION

(a) Public Houses & Clubs

Routine and special visits, during and out of licensing hours, have been made at these premises which are now generally well-appointed. In the report for 1962, reference was made to the use of 'thrifty machines' which allowed the overspilled beer to re-enter the beer pipe-lines. It is pleasing to report that this practice has been now virtually eliminated and in quite a few premises stainless steel tanks are used which can be filled direct from the brewery lorries. The beer is then delivered under pressure to the pumps at the bar.

Conditions which required improvement at some premises included items of ventilation, repair and decoration of sanitary accommodation and the repair or decoration of serveries and bars.

(b) Cafes & Restaurants

Inspections have been made at these premises and it is pleasing to report that, generally, conditions were satisfactory. It was however, a cause of concern to see pastries and cakes displayed on counters without suitable protection against contamination.

(c) Meat Inspection

There is no abattoir in the area. An arrangement has been made with the adjoining authority, Bedwas and Machen U. D. Council, for relief meat inspection to be carried out by this department in the absence of Bedwas inspectors through illness or holiday leave.

(d) Butchers' Shops

All butchers' shops are regularly inspected and it was necessary on one occasion to require the owner to carry out redecoration and replacement of certain fittings.

(e) Other Food Premises

School canteens and pithead canteens have been regularly inspected and these premises are generally well-maintained.

(f) Ice Cream

Serial sampling of ice cream was carried out, with the object of obtaining about six samples from each vendor/manufacturer during the summer months. Below is a table showing results which are quite gratifying.

VENDOR	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	TYPE OF ICE CREAM
1	1	1	-	-	-	-	Cold Mix
2	1	4	4	1	-	-	Heat Treated
3	1	1	1	1	-	-	Cold Mix
4							
(a)	1	-	1	1	-	-	Heat Treated
(b)	-	1	-	-	1	1	Cold Mix
5							
*Van (a)	3	-	-	-	-	-	Cold Mix
(b)	1	1	1	-	-	-	Cold Mix
(c)	3	4	2	3	-	-	Cold Mix
(d)	3	-	-	-	-	-	Cold Mix
(e)	1	3	-	-	-	-	Cold Mix
(f)	3	-	3	2	-	-	Soft
(g)	3	-	2	2	-	-	Soft
(h)	-	-	-	3	-	-	Cold Mix
6	1	-	-	-	-	-	Heat Treated
7	4	1	2	1	1	-	Soft
8	1	1	1	-	-	-	Heat Treated

*The proprietor of these vans has ceased vending ice cream.

(g) Milk Supplies

Samples of milk are taken from time to time for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newport. 40 samples were taken, one of which failed the methylene blue test. Follow-up enquiries were made at the pasteurising depot.

(h) Food Poisoning

One case of suspected food poisoning was notified. Enquiries were made at the house of the patient and the suspected food was cooked ham which had been stored at the house for some time.

(i) Condemned Food

The following foods were surrendered by shopkeepers as unfit for human consumption.

Meat (canned and fresh)	lbs.
Pork Loin	7½
Pork Shoulder	161½
Gammon	278
Chopped Pork	45
Beef	87½
Bacon	20
Chicken	20
Ox Tongue	25
Luncheon Meat	8
Corned Beef	73½
Pork Luncheon	4
Stewed Steak	12
Pork Roll	6
Jellied Veal	66
Cooked Ham	356½
Irish Stew	6

Other Foods	lbs.
Cake	175
Chocolate Easter Eggs	12 doz.

Fish	lbs.
Halibut	20
Cod	21
Kippers	7
Salmon (canned)	3½

Canned Fruit and Vegetables	Tins
Beans	5
Beetroot	16
Cherries	25
Fruit Cocktail	10
Grapefruit	15
Oranges	11
Peaches	25
Pears	85
Peas	13
Pineapples	44
Plums	5
Rice Pudding	6
Salmon	7
Tomatoes	296

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1.	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	-	-
2.	Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	34	1	-
3.	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
	Total	35	36	1	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of Floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.) (a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

There are no outworkers operating in the area.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

I am indebted to Mr. R. J. Bullen, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Monmouthshire County Council, for the following information on sampling under the above Act undertaken by his department in the Bedwellty area.

"Samples Taken: 51 Milk; 48 Other Food; 3 Ice Cream: Total 102

The Public Analyst certified all samples to be genuine with the exception of following:-

Milk contained Added Water

Milk was purchased from a Farmer - Retailer during sampling contained 3.1% added water.

Absolute Discharge, Costs - £2. 2s. Od.

In addition to the above, one sample was not submitted to the Public Analyst, the details of which are as follows:

Ice Lollipop containing a Dead Wasp

A 3 year old child purchased an Ice Lollipop from an Ice-cream Vendor. The child commenced eating the lollipop and bit into the wasp. Proceedings were taken against the Retailer - Manufacturer,

Fined £2. 2s. Od. Costs - £2. 2s. Od."

Once again I wish to record my appreciation of the help and co-operation given by the members and officials and for the continued keen approach to the work shown by the staff of the Health Department.

Yours faithfully,

A. M. COLEMAN

Chief Public Health Inspector.